

**Amendments to the Specification:**

On page 3, beginning with line 19, please amend the paragraph as follows:

a) polymeric aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic polycarboxylic acids or derivatives thereof, such as, for example, polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid and esters thereof (esters of the two acids with aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic alcohols with C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>22</sub>), maleic acid, maleic anhydride, fumaric acid and polynorbornenic acid. The number average molecular weights of the polycarboxylic acid used can be between 200 and 2,000,000 g/mol, the range 2000 – 100,000 g/mol being preferably used.

Page 6, beginning with line 29 through page 7, line 2, please amend the paragraph as follows:

The number average molecular weights of the comb polymers according to the invention can advantageously be between 200 and 2,000,000 g/mol, particularly advantageously between 200 and 100,000 g/mol, the range 1000 – 30,000 g/mol being preferably used, very particularly advantageously 5000 – 15,000 g/mol.

Page 7, beginning with line 17, please amend the paragraph as follows:

Starting materials which can be used for the polyester backbone of comb polymers according to the invention are aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic polycarboxylic acids or derivatives thereof, such as, for example, polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid and esters thereof (esters of the two acids with aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic alcohols with C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>22</sub>), maleic acid, maleic anhydride, fumaric acid and polynorbornenic acid. The number average molecular weights of the individual polycarboxylic acids can be between 200 and 2,000,000 g/mol, the range 2000 – 100,000 g/mol being preferably used.